

**Spencer Town Council Regular Meeting
August 6, 2012 at 7p.m.
Municipal Building
90 N. West Street
Spencer, IN 47460**

Board Members present: Cynthia Hyde, Jon Stantz and Dean Bruce.

Also present: Clerk-Treasurer Cheryl Moke, Town Marshal Richard Foutch, Sewage Dept. Interim Supt. John Hodge, Street Dept. Supt. Larry Parrish, Michael Stanley, James Baughn. The Town Attorney was not present.

MEETING WAS OPENED WITH THE PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR July 16, 2012 REGULAR MEETING

Dean Bruce made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Jon Stantz and the motion passed 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC ISSUES

In the first order of business, the meeting was turned over to Dean Bruce to discuss the wastewater treatment facilities. During his presentation, Mr. Bruce responded to some allegations made by former employee, Jimmy Groh, and wanted to set the record straight on misinformation being reported by the ex-employee, and the media. Dean gave a timeline of events leading up to the current situation (including the town's role in the investigation by self-reporting and requesting an inspection in January). He next reviewed the IDEM inspection of February 1st, and the three previous inspections conducted by IDEM. He also discussed points of investigation that are still open, and stated that he will continue to be in touch with IDEM until all questions are resolved. He announced an Open House to be held on Saturday, August 11, from 10am -12pm at the Spencer Wastewater Treatment Plant. Dean stated that tours will be given, the public will have the opportunity to meet the new plant operator, John Hodge, and town board members will be on hand to answer questions.

Next on the agenda, George Thurston, with the Owen County Art Guild, requested the use of a vacant lot behind the Art Guild, for auxiliary parking. This property is in the floodway and cannot be built on again, and Dean Bruce commented that DNR would be more knowledgeable on what can be done with this property. Cynthia Hyde commented that, although she has no objection, the real question is ownership. She said that she would check into this, and possibly have an answer by the next meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer, Cheryl Moke said she received a call from Darrell White, with the YMCA regarding a Grant of Easement and Dedication of Private Sewer Line to the Town of Spencer. He had an unsigned document, and was wondering what the status of this agreement was. The Board said they recalled this document, but the Town had never signed it, and did not plan to do this.

Next, Becky Brown on behalf of the Owen County Humane Society presented the Manager's Report to the Town Board. Included in the report were updates on the volunteer program, rabies clinic, among other items. Her only question to the Town Board was regarding animal control and how to coordinate that with the Town. Richard Foutch will get with Becky to work on this.

Emily Richardson and Michael Darling, representing Boston Scientific requested that the speed limit on Brookside Drive be reduced from 30 to 10mph. They stated they had recently installed a walking path, which traversed this road which is used almost entirely by Boston Scientific employees. The town board agreed with this request and said they would get with Richard Lorenz, Town Attorney, to make this ordinance change.

Jon Stantz made a motion to change the ordinance from 30 to 10 mph on Brookside Drive. This was seconded by Dean Bruce and passed 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Marshal Foutch gave an update on the department. Jon Stantz asked that he patrol Cooper Park a little more during the day.

IN THE MATTER OF THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

No report.

IN THE MATTER OF THE STREET DEPARTMENT

Superintendent Parrish said he got bids for the milling and resurfacing of Hillside between West and Fletcher Avenue. The lowest bid was from Milestone Construction for \$52,965. He said the project will take two days for milling and 2 days for paving. Dean Bruce suggested that Larry contact the school corporation to let them know when this project will be done.

Dean Bruce made a motion to approve the bid from Milestone Construction as stated. The motion was seconded by Jon Stantz and passed 3-0.

Next, Larry Parrish said he got some bids to take down trees and remove (grind) the stumps at 3 N. Montgomery (formerly the Robinson House). The lowest bid was from Milton's Tree Service out of Loogootee, where they would do the entire job for \$2,250.

Jon Stantz made a motion to approve the bid from Milton's Tree Service, seconded by Dean Bruce and passed 3-0.

Larry Parrish next stated he got a quote from Detroit Salt for road salt in the amount of \$75.96 per ton. He said the bid is written to purchase up to 100 tons. He also said because of the mild winter, we still had salt stored, and this was an insurance policy should we need additional.

Jon Stantz made a motion to approve the quote in the amount of \$7,596 for 100 tons delivered from Detroit Salt. The motion was seconded by Dean Bruce and passed 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEWER DEPARTMENT

John Hodge, Interim Sewer Dept. Supervisor, reported that the plant was running well this week, however, there still exist a couple of equipment problems, which he is working to resolve. One problem involves the replacement of a new digester motor for approximately \$1,660.00

Jon Stantz made a motion to approve the purchase of the new motor, 2nd by Dean Bruce and passed 3-0.

Jon Stantz requested if the flapper lid (that covers the pipe where the water exits the plant into the river) can be replaced. He said it was broken in half, and needs to be repaired or replaced. John Hodge said he would look into it.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Cynthia reported that Sheila Reeves volunteered to take over the secretarial duties, and there would be no pay for this. Additionally, at the last BZA meeting, the zoning variance presented verbally, was not written up on a zoning variance request, but rather a zone change request was submitted to the Board. Richard Lorenz is looking into to this.

IN THE MATTER OF THE FIRE TERRITORY

Nothing to report.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ATTORNEY

Nothing to report.

IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS

Denise Shaw presented for signature, an Interlocal Agreement between the County and the Town of Spencer for the development of an area known as the St Rd 43 Corridor. The agreement had been signed earlier that day by the Commissioners. According to the agreement, Article 6, the Town shall be responsible for the maintenance of the newly installed wastewater treatment works.

The Board decided that John Hodge should be involved with the task force for this project, in an advisory capacity. Denise Shaw said she will include him in the meetings going forward. John Hodge also requested that the equipment (since the town has no say in the purchase of this), be the same as what we currently are running. Denise Shaw said she will pass that along to the Engineers and make sure they are aware of it.

Cynthia Hyde made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement as stated above, seconded by Jon Stantz and passed 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS

The Owen County Art Guild (Jordan Minnick) presented an event registration for “Arts in Our Park” event to be held at the Owen County Art Guild and Cooper Park on September 15, 2012 from 9am to 9pm. Since it is the same weekend as the Apple Butter Festival, he said he discussed it with the Lions Club, and have their approval. He also requested that Cooper Street be closed from Main to the corner by the Guild, from 6pm to 9pm. He requested the fee be waived.

Jon Stantz made a motion to approve the event registration as presented, seconded by Cynthia Hyde, and it passed 3-0.

Cynthia Hyde mentioned that she met with Mark Rogers and he is interested in working on the trails project. She will contact Matt Sward about pursuing a planning grant.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS

Dean Bruce made a motion to accept the claims as presented. The motion was seconded by Jon Stantz, and passed 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

Jon Stantz motioned to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. seconded by Cynthia Hyde and the motion passed 3-0.

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| _____ Cynthia Hyde, President | _____ Jon Stantz, Vice-President | _____ Dean Bruce, Board Member |
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Attest:_____
Cheryl Moke, Clerk-Treasurer